

August 2006

Volume 3, Issue 5

Note from the Consul General

Dear friends,

We have so many activities in August that we have decided to put out a newsletter just for this month. September's will be on its way to you soon.

The Kitty Hawk visit was a highlight. I wish I could get every Western Australian on board to meet out wonderful sailors and see firsthand the technology and professionalism that is the hallmark of the U.S. Navy. Our warm thanks go to everyone who made the visit a success.

Warm regards, Robin

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PERTH PERSPECTIVES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

16 St. Georges Terrace, Perth 6000, WA, Australia
Phone: 08 9202 1224 <http://perth.usconsulate.gov/perth>



USS KITTY HAWK VISITS PERTH



Strike Group Commander Admiral Doug McClain (center) with Consul Mark Prokop and Professor Karen Simmer.

If you ask any Pacific Fleet sailor where he or she would choose to be when deployed, the unanimous answer is "Down Under." When the USS Kitty Hawk carrier strike group visited WA August 10—14, 5000 remarkable young sailors, with an average age of 19, came ashore to socialize, see the sights, enjoy the food, and just have a break from the arduous work required to keep a mobile city such as the USS Kitty Hawk shipshape, and operationally ready 24/7. We at the Consulate General are proud that the crew readily accepts their mantle as ambassadors of their

ship, their navy, and their country. At a reception onboard the Kitty Hawk for over 500 members of the Western Australian public, Admiral Doug McClain spoke with great pride of his crew. On August 11 the Admiral, accompanied by CG McClellan, called on the Governor of Western Australia, Dr. Ken Michael, enjoyed lunch with the Minister for Tourism, Sheila McHale, and other WA leaders, and met with members of the Australian Hotels Association. The crew were also busy ashore, participating in numerous community assistance programs. Others showed more than 1,200 Western Australians around the Kitty Hawk. Our thanks go out to the many West Australians who opened their homes and hearts to more than 200 crewmembers through the Host-A-Sailor program. (See more on the visit on pages 4 & 5).



Imam Yayha Hendi—A Shining Example

The Muslim Chaplain at Georgetown University, Imam Yayha Hendi, brought communities together during his short visit to Perth July 29—August 2. Through his words, actions, and personal stories, Imam Hendi influenced others and shone as an example of the importance of respect for religious diversity and tolerance in America. Whether talking with university Vice Chancellors, multi-faith Chaplains, senior academics, high school students — Christians, Jews and Muslims — Imam Hendi caused all of his listeners to reflect deeply on what it means to be a Muslim in pluralistic societies, and how non-Muslims can reach out, as well.



Imam Yahya Hendi



CG McClellan, Rabbi Freilich and Imam Hendi

Imam Hendi commenced his Perth program with a Sunday visit to the Perth Synagogue where the Chief Rabbi of Western Australia, Rabbi Dovid Freilich, hosted a morning tea in the Imam's honor. Approximately thirty leaders of the local Jewish community attended the morning tea. Also in attendance were young aspiring Jewish leaders from New York. Imam Hendi's topic *"Jews and Muslims, Partners of Spiritual Legacy: A Path to Peace"* focused on the importance of both Muslims and Jews "operating as partners." Imam Hendi emphasized the strong need to "not just talk the talk, but walk the walk." He explained the importance of individuals from various religious backgrounds sharing classrooms together and learning about each other from within. He

said the best way for a better future relationship between Judaism, Christianity and Islam is when "a person is able to reach out to another person and understand him in his way." He further commented that a person can become a better citizen of the West and also a better representative of their own faith when they understand how others see the world. Imam Hendi said he has made the commitment to visit a synagogue every Saturday and a Church every Sunday.

On Monday morning, Imam Hendi spoke at an open forum hosted by the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at Edith Cowan University. The audience of over 100 included the Vice Chaplain, multi-faith Chaplains, university students and high school students from Islamic, Jewish and other local high schools. Also in attendance were members of the local community as well as Consulate staff. Imam Hendi delivered a presentation on *"Being Muslim Today: A Leading U.S. Muslim's Perspective."* During his remarks, Imam Hendi encouraged all to create a greater understanding between religions and cultures, and acknowledge diversity as reality. Imam Hendi said Islam's true principles were the politics of justice, economics of equity and covenant of community.



Imam Hendi with Multi-faith Chaplains, CG McClellan and students from the Australian Islamic College

Imam Yayha Hendi's Visit to Perth



Above: Imam Hendi with Muslim leaders, the CG, and Interfaith Chaplains at the Perth Mosque

Following the forum, Imam Hendi toured and prayed at the Perth Mosque and then spoke at another open forum hosted by the Noorul Islam Society about the challenges that contemporary Islam faces in pluralistic societies. The audience of approximately 95 was comprised of members of Parliament, multi-faith Chaplains, The Noorul Islam Society, the Islamic Council of WA, and other Christian and Jewish communities, as well as the CG and consulate staff. In his speech, Imam Hendi stressed the importance of Muslims participating in and contributing to the communities in which they live. "Citizenship is a two-way road," he commented. "It is not only about rights," he said, "It is about responsibilities too."

Muslims must play an active role in society, and governments must work to facilitate such participation. Imam Hendi also discussed the need for Muslims to adhere to the true principles of Islam. He stressed that Islam's true teachings must not be confused with some misguided cultural practices. The event ended with a question and answer session in which the Imam encouraged interfaith dialogue between Jews, Muslims, and Christians. During the Q&A, the Chief Rabbi of Western Australia addressed the Imam in the form of a comment, emphasizing his agreement that there are shared values between the three Abrahamic faiths — Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Members of all faiths, he said, have the responsibility to promote and stand firm by these common values. Following the forum, Imam Hendi was interviewed by *The West Australian* for an article that appeared in Saturday's *Human Spirit* column, and captured Imam Hendi's message of respect and interfaith cooperation.



Above: Imam Hendi receiving a gift from Sheikh Muhammad Agherdien of the Noorul Islam Society



CMSS Director Associate Professor Samina Yasmeen with Members of CMSS .

Imam Hendi then spoke at an open forum hosted by the Director of the University of Western Australia's Centre for Muslim States & Societies (CMSS), Associate Professor Samina Yasmeen. The audience included members of CMSS and the Muslim Students' Association, the Australian American Association, and university students. Imam Hendi delivered a presentation on "*Muslims Living in the West: The American Experience*." In his remarks he explained the history of Islam in America, and discussed how Muslims are shaping the United States and the role international issues and the media have played in shaping these identities. Directly following the speaking engagement, Associate Professor Samina Yasmeen, hosted an informal dinner in Imam Hendi's honor. Other media coverage included a live-to-air ABC Radio interview and a taped interview with television channel Access 31.

Sailors Enjoy Perth and Also Lend A Hand

The following is a letter to the editor that ran in *The Sunday Times* on August 20, in response to the newspaper's August 13 article titled, "Hello sailors, goodbye girls — What 5000 of America's Best Get up to in Perth."



Yard work at a Perth synagogue.



Visiting children at Princess Margaret Hospital



Sailors refurbishing computers



School students enjoying a tour of the Kitty Hawk

"I chuckled when I read Louise Pemble's article as I'm sure did many of your readers. Unlike most of your readers, I have other sources of information to fill me in on the activities U.S. sailors from the Kitty Hawk strike group took part in during their long-awaited visit to Fremantle and Perth — and they were up to a lot more than just drinking beer. For example, more than 300 generously gave their time, energy, and expertise on 12 community relations projects across the metropolitan area, including cleaning Perth Zoo's giraffe enclosure, renovating homeless accommodation, landscaping church and synagogue properties, and planting seedlings for bush regeneration.

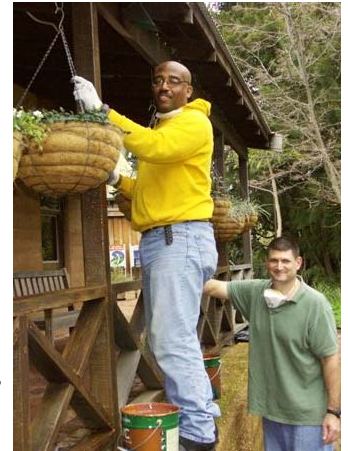
One young sailor spent her 21st birthday cleaning a home for the disabled, and Bassendean Mayor Tina Klein was so moved that she bought her a birthday cake and gift to say thanks.

More than 200 sailors hosted tours of the aircraft carrier for more than 1300 West Australians, and the commander of the carrier strike group, Admiral Doug McClain, personally led a special tour for the Starlight Foundation "Wish" children.

Nearly 2000 sailors booked to go horse riding, canoeing, scuba diving, sandboarding, cycling, touring off-road and boating. I saw many U.S. sailors cheering on the Eagles on Saturday afternoon and community sporting events were also popular.

Finally, West Australians opened their homes and hearts to more than 200 crew through the Host-A-Sailor program.

There is no denying U.S. sailors look forward to Fremantle as an R & R stop, but in the U.S. Navy's eyes, there is a lot more to WA than a cold beer."



Helping out at the Perth Zoo



Bassendean Mayor Tina Klein presents a young sailor with a 21st birthday card and gift.



Making friends at a native animal sanctuary.

USS Kitty Hawk Starlight Foundation Tour

The highlight of the Starlight Foundation tour onboard the USS Kitty Hawk was the unexpected appearance of Admiral Doug McClain, the Commander of the Kitty Hawk Carrier Strike Group and one of the US Navy's most experienced fighter pilots. Admiral McClain held the attention of every child and adult with stories of his career and adventures. The Admiral further surprised the children by organizing a Kitty Hawk ball cap for each child, as well as personally signing photos of the Kitty Hawk with the banner of WA football teams imprinted on each photo. The families were also given calendars and CDs showing the flight squadrons in action. A very informative tour followed, led by Lt James Tomaszewski, leader of the "Dambusters" squadron. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the children. CG McClellan joined the Admiral at this special event.



Chefs' Exchange



As part of the Royal Australian Navy Chefs' Exchange program organized by Petty Officer Paul Graham, chefs from the Parmelia Hilton Perth were invited to assist with the preparation and serving of food at the reception held on-board the USS Kitty Hawk on August 10. The Parmelia Hilton Executive Chef Michael Schmidt with three of his team participated in the exchange. Mr. Schmidt said it was an educational and motivational experience to be part of such an important event and to learn how a vessel the size of the Kitty Hawk caters for its crew of over 5,000. He further commented, "it was a wonderful opportunity for the Parmelia Hilton team to work with chefs from the Kitty Hawk. We exchanged ideas and techniques and made new friends!" In exchange, chefs from the USS Kitty Hawk spent some time in the kitchen of the Parmelia Hilton Perth. For navy chefs, seeing the different challenges faced by a hotel kitchen takes away some of the mystery of private enterprise and gives them ideas for their future.

Left: Hilton Chef Michael Schmidt with USS Kitty Hawk Naval Chef.

Thanks to the Organizers!

A special thanks is extended to ConGen Sydney's Public Affairs Specialist Kathy Topley for coming to Perth to assist with the USS Kitty Hawk Community Relations events. Kathy did an outstanding job coordinating events with Whiteman Park, Valued Independent People, Technology Assisting Disability WA, the Starlight Foundation, Native Arc and Princess Margaret Hospital. "I don't know what I would have done without Kathy's help," Public Diplomacy Assistant Lisa Marino said. Special thanks are also extended to LCDR Phil Francois, as well as Chaplains Pike, Coleman, Jenkins and ENS Donnelly of the carrier group, and to everyone who helped get these events off the ground!



CG McClellan with Public Affairs Specialist Kathy Topley

Department of Environment & Conservation

Farewells International Exchange Reps



Director General Keiran McNamara with exchangees Collin Shepherd, Emily Palmquist, Dominic De Paolo and Wendy Sicard, also with CG McClellan and DEC's Organizational, Learning and Development Manager, Alan Byrne

The Consul General was the keynote speaker at an August 11 farewell ceremony for four U.S. representatives who visited Perth on a five-month exchange program between the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC).

During her five months in Perth, Ecologist Collin Shepherd worked in Dwellingup on a range of science and field-based positions. She undertook a number of projects, including the monitoring and translocating of the western ringtail possum.

Dominic DiPaolo spent five months in Geraldton and got to see more of the Rangelands

than most West Aussies. He took part in a range of projects in the Rangelands including a biodiversity survey near Carnarvon and a project to identify biodiversity values in the Northern Wheatbelt region.

Emily Palmquist wasn't sure what to expect when she arrived in Esperance five months ago, but she's leaving armed with fantastic experience, a wealth of new knowledge, and a group of new friends "down under." She was involved in water monitoring and vegetation surveys at Lake Gore as well as a number of projects where she learned more about the areas native plant species.

Wendy Sicard spent five months in Manjimup where she discovered a small-town charm that reminded her of home. She was involved in a number of projects including planning and designing of an experiment to help reveal the reason behind the woylie decline in the south-west, trapping and fitting native animals with radio collars, and surveying fungi.

U.S. Commercial Specialist John McCaffrey



John McCaffrey is a Commercial Specialist with the U.S. Department of Commerce based in Melbourne. John's portfolio includes the oil and gas sectors, along with mining, power generation, and agriculture, Australia wide. John comes out to WA regularly and he said he is enjoying exploring Fremantle on this trip.

Left: John McCaffrey with CG McClellan during his August visit to Perth

U.S. Department of Commerce Visitors



Aaron Brickman and Joe Neuhoff from the U.S. Department of Commerce visited Western Australia in August to learn about resources developments in the state. The officials were following up on discussions they had with WA delegates to the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston in May. Doug Partington (far right), Marketing Manager at the WA Department of Industry and Resources, was instrumental in organizing the visit. The Department of Commerce visitors met with a number of company reps and officials in WA to learn more about the state's energy policy and commercial opportunities.

U.S.-India Bilateral Relationship DVC—August 10

The University of Western Australia's Center for Muslim States & Societies hosted the August 10 Digital Video Conference on the U.S.-India Bilateral Relationship. U.S. sponsored speaker Dr. Satu Limaye participated from Washington. Dr. Limaye is a research staff member at the Strategy Forces and Resources Division of the Institute for Defense Analyses. The audience included UWA political science students; members of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (WA); the Royal United Services Institute (a body promoting informed discussion on Australian national security); the Australian Red Cross; think tank organizations; Consulate staff, and other individuals interested in international affairs. The DVC was an important opportunity to explore U.S. thinking on the potential for and obstacles to growing engagement between India and the international community. It also provided an opportunity to promote discussion of India as an increasingly important international partner.



Peter Sim, CG McClellan and Dr. Vivien Forbes



Vietnam Veterans'

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia held its annual Memorial Service at the Vietnam Memorial in King's Park on 20 August. Relatives of the six Australian Vietnam War MIAs came from across Australia and from New Zealand to attend the service. CG McClellan and other guests were invited to lay poppies in a ceremonial chest. The North American Veterans' Unit represented the United States with flew the flag. During the service, the chaplain noted with appreciation the presence of "Old Glory." At left, NAVU president Joan Gravelle, Michael Munjak, Senior Officer Mike Donnelly, and other veterans with the Consul General.

U.S. Visiting Artist Dr. Nicholas Goluses

Dr. Nicholas Goluses, one of the world's most eminent guitarists and a professor at the famed Eastman School of Music, visited Perth as part of the U.S. Visiting Artist Program August 22—27. Dr. Jonathan Paget of the Classical Guitar Society of WA and former Fulbright scholar, worked tirelessly to coordinate Nicholas Goluses' program in conjunction with the U.S. Consulate General. Through the varied program, Dr. Goluses made a lasting contribution to musical life in Australia through his specialized teaching of talented young people and by sharing his music.

During his short stay in WA, Dr. Goluses conducted several masterclasses and workshops at the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Perth Modern School, Churchlands Senior High School, and the Classical Guitar Society of WA.



Honours student, Duncan Gardiner, with Nicholas Goluses in the WAAPA masterclass



The guitar students at Perth Modern School, with Dr. Nicholas Goluses (center) and their teacher Murray Bishop (right and rear)

The Consul General hosted a reception August 23 in honor of Dr. Goluses. Approximately 35 members of the Classical Guitar Society of WA, representatives from the School of Music and the WA Academy of Performing Arts, business representatives, members of Perth's museum and music communities (including former Fulbrighters) and Consulate staff attended. The CG welcomed Dr. Goluses to Perth and spoke about the importance of cultural exchange programs between the U.S. and Australia, as well as the historical and cultural ties between the U.S. and Australia.

Dr. Goluses also performed at WAAPA to an audience of over 160. In her introductory remarks at the concert, the CG spoke about the relationship between the U.S. and Australia, as well as the Fulbright Program. On Saturday and Sunday, Dr. Goluses adjudicated the performances of 47 guitar ensembles at the International Guitar Festival, and then performed at the closing session for an audience of around 1500. CG McClellan also spoke at the Festival.



Dr. Nicholas Goluses with his beloved WA guitar (and the CG.)

STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC WARNINGS

Travel warnings and public announcements are available on the Department of State website at <http://www.travel.state.gov> or outside the U.S and Canada call toll free 1-317-472-2328



American College & University Information Advising Service

The American College & University Information
Advising Service office is located at:
the University of Western Australia,
Physics Building, 2nd Floor. Contact Ms. Lee Healy at
6488-8680

edadvper@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

For more information, visit:

<http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/education>

Online Registration:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

The State Department's secure online travel registration website allows U.S. citizens to record foreign trips and residence information. U.S. citizens around the world who travel or reside abroad can access the IBRS (Internet-Based Registration System) either through a link on: <http://travel.state.gov> or directly at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. The IBRS will allow both short-trip and long-term travelers abroad to provide their itinerary, residence and emergency contact information. Alternatively, you may complete a printed registration form available from our website at:

<http://perth.usconsulate.gov>

CONSULAR SECTION HARD AT WORK

DURING AUGUST THE CONSULAR SECTION
HANDLED THE FOLLOWING:

VISAS: 258

PASSPORTS: 94

PASSPORT AMENDMENTS: 7

BIRTHS: 10

ANOUTCHKA TRIVIA QUESTION

Anoutchka Payet, Receptionist for the American Consulate

Q: Who wrote the familiar poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty?

LAST TRIVIA QUESTION:

Q. What famous slogan was originally devised by Patrick O'Keefe for the Society of American Florists?

A. "Say it with flowers."

The Consul General Visits Dowerin

The Consul General delivered the opening address at the Dowerin Field Day Official Opening on August 29. The Field Day showcased major U.S. agricultural machinery and the Consul General's presence at this event provided an ideal opportunity to connect with WA rural communities, users of American machinery, and policy makers. She also gave the keynote address at the National Young Farmers Awards dinner held in Dowerin on August 30. Sen. Ross Lightfoot presented the awards.

The Field Days opening event was also attended by Federal MP the Hon Wilson Tuckey, Nationals WA Leader Brendan Grylls and State Rural MPs Gary Snook, Murray Cowper and Nigel Hallett. Dowerin



CG McClellan officially opening the Dowerin Field Days

Shire

President Mr. Les Ward also spoke at the opening.

Children from the Dowerin District High School sang the Australian and American anthems followed by a selection of other songs, including *Give My Regards to Broadway*, to mark the occasion.

In the afternoon, the Consul General demonstrated her familiarity with farm machinery by driving the latest model John Deere tractor for filming for the September episode of the TV show *Postcards from WA*. She then also toured the extensive displays and exhibitions with the Field Day Chairman and was impressed by the diverse range of products and services on display.

While in Dowerin, the Consul General took a flight over the wheatbelt and gained a deeper appreciation of the drought conditions in the area.

The Consul General also talked about the similarities between Australia and the United States with elementary students at schools in Dowerin and Goomalling.



Above: Aerial view of the Dowerin Field Days site.



Left, with recipients of the National Young Farmers Awards. Right, with students in Goomalling.)

The Consulate Bids Farewell to Intern Jordan Runge

Intern Jordan Runge finished his three and a half month internship at the Consulate General on 9 August. He interned with Economic Assistant Gina Soos, completing research projects and drafting reports on key issues for Washington. Jordan also offered his talents around the office wherever necessary, whether writing summaries of various Consulate events or manning the phones.

An American student at the University of Notre Dame, Jordan's internship coincided with a semester abroad at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He returns to his home university to complete the final year of undergraduate studies in his chosen majors of Political Science and Peace Studies. Graduate School is in Jordan's near future, though he remains undecided as to what field of study he wishes to pursue.



Jordan Runge with CG McClellan

"I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the Consulate and see how a diplomatic office runs," Jordan said. "I really enjoyed the nature of my work with Gina and all the other staff members, and I feel this experience has allowed me to learn not only a great deal about the workings of the State Department, but also about the political and economic scenes in WA."

Jordan said he will miss the relaxed, Australian lifestyle and wishes to someday return to WA. "I'm sad to leave the people, the surroundings, everything. I've been here for six months. Perth has become my home."

U.S./Australia Affinity Groups

Interested in meeting other Americans? Are you an Australian or resident with special ties to the United States? Just want to meet some fun people? One of these groups should fit you to a "T." Turn to page 13 to see upcoming activities.

The American Women's Club (open to women of all nationalities) - AWC President Andrea Chatterji, 9383 2930 - or www.AWCPerth.org

American Chamber of Commerce WA - AmCham WA General Manager Penelope Williamson - 9325 9540

The Australian American Association - Membership Coordinator Richard Adams - 9284 6288

The North American Veterans' Unit — President Joan Gravelle — 0421 420 498



Press Coverage of the Consulate General During August

August 5 — Coverage in *The West Australian's Human Spirit* column, "Imam delivers home truths to Muslims," of Imam Yahya Hendi's speaking engagement on July 31.

August 13 — Article in *The Sunday Times* during the USS KITTY HAWK visit to Perth about "What 5000 of America's best get up to in Perth."

August — Coverage in *The Avon Valley Advocate* regarding the Dowerin Field Day event.

August 20 — *The Sunday Times* ran CG McClellan's Letter to the Editor providing information on what the U.S. sailors from the USS KITTY HAWK did when they were in Perth during their August visit.

August 21 — Coverage in *The Australian Jewish Newspaper* on the flyout to the USS KITTY HAWK.

August 24 — Coverage in *The West Australian Arts* section on U.S. Visiting Artist Nicholas Goluses' visit to Perth.

August 24 — Coverage in the *Esperance Express* on the farewell ceremony for WA Department of Environment & Conservation's American international exchange representatives.

August 29 — Coverage on ABC Radio and RadioWest, Postcards WA (Channel 9), The Sunday Times, The West Australia, The Countryman, Farm Weekly on the Dowerin Field Day event including the CG's presence and role in opening the annual Field Day.

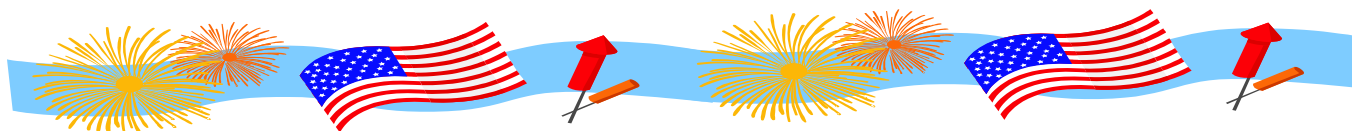
August 30 — Coverage in the *Geraldton Guardian* on American exchange student Dominic Di Paolo's work in Geraldton.



Above: The CG takes *Postcards* presenter Pip O'Connell for a spin in a John Deere tractor at the Dowerin Field Days.



Left: The Dowerin school choir did a great job singing the US and Australian anthems at the Opening!



Upcoming U.S./Australia Affinity Group Events

American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)

September 27 Doug Aberle, Managing Director, Western Power

October 13 Annual Golf Tournament — Joondalup

Contact: Penelope Williamson at wa@amcham.com.au

American Women's Club (AWC)

In addition to AWC's monthly activities of moms and babes, golden girls, quilting, golf, lunch and wine in Swan Valley, Diva Day, and new members' coffee, other activities include:

September 5 AWC Founders' Day Lunch

October 7 70s Party at Hip-E Club

October 29 Halloween Festival with Trunk or Treat and Haunted House at the Perth Civic Centre

October 20-29 Volunteering with MS Production of Guys & Dolls at the Regency Theatre

Contact: Andrea Chatterji at president@awcperth.org

Australian American Association (AAA)

Sept 6—10 AAA Federal Conference Events Include:

Sept 6 Pre-conference all day luxury wildflower viewing coach tour to New Norcia and the Pinnacles Desert

Sept 7 Coach tour to Garden Island, Stirling Base.
Morning Tea with Commander of Stirling Base.

State Reception at Government House

Sept 8 Civic Reception at Council House

Sept 9 Multifaith 9/11 Observance, Devonshire Tea with the Governor and Lord Mayor
and formal black tie Gala Dinner at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

Sept 10 Boat trip and farewell lunch on the Swan River

December Upcoming December Christmas dinner in the garden of Max and Norma Kay's home.

Contact: Susie Glasfurd at secretary.aaawa@westnet.com.au

North American Veterans' Unit (NAVU)

Contact: Joan Gravelle at barryg@plummers.com.au